

Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2014

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is an essential job training and worker assistance program that helps strengthen the American workforce to be better equipped and more competitive to compete in the 21st century economy. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2014 extends all TAA programs that were in effect as of December 31, 2013, through the end of 2020 and restores certain benefits that Congress previously enacted in 2009.

Eligibility Requirements

- Reinstates TAA benefits for service workers and firms. At the end of 2013, service workers lost their eligibility to be certified as a class for TAA benefits, as did service firms. This bill reinstates TAA benefits for service workers and firms.
- Includes workers whose firms shift production to non-FTA partner countries. At the end of 2013, workers whose firms shifted production to countries such as China lost their eligibility to apply for TAA benefits. Currently, only shifts to (or imports from) FTA-partner or preference program beneficiaries count for TAA purposes. This bill reinstates eligibility for workers whose job loss is due to shifts in production to, or increases in imports from, any trading partner.
- Extends existing programs for manufacturing sector workers, farmers, fishermen, firms, and communities. The bill extends existing programs for manufacturing sector workers, farmers, fishermen, and firms through 2021, and extends the community programs through 2020.

Additional Assistance to American Workers

- Improves reemployment services to trade-affected workers and extends income support for workers in approved training. The bill assists trade-affected workers in planning for and returning to employment. Training is one of the largest components of the reemployment services. The bill would restore the previous level of support of \$575 million for reemployment services, more than double what it is today. Through the Trade Readjustment Allowance, the bill provides income support to certified workers who are in approved training programs and whose unemployment insurance (UI) benefits have been exhausted. Under the bill, the availability of TRA payments is extended from 130 to 156 weeks total, both to allow workers to enroll in remedial education, as well as to allow workers to complete a degree or a recognized credential.
- Includes the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) to provide workers with health benefits. The HCTC lapsed at the end of 2013. Under the bill, workers have the opportunity to receive either an Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credit, or opt-in to the HCTC program to receive TAA assistance to purchase health insurance. The HCTC credit is 80%, as it was in 2009.

- Increases funding for TAA for Firms. TAA for Firms helps companies adversely affected by trade to develop and implement business plans in order to regain their competitiveness. Recognizing the existing backlog of firms seeking assistance, the bill restores funding for TAA for Firms to 2009 levels.
- Grants supplemental wages to eligible older workers. Through the Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance program, the bill, reflecting the reemployment challenges unique to older workers, supplements the wages of those aged 50 and over who secure quick re-employment at a lower wage, up to a maximum of \$55,000.
- Improves job search and relocation allowance procedures. The bill allows beneficiaries to request reimbursement for job search and relocation allowances. This is targeted towards workers who are unable to obtain employment within their commuting areas. Eligible workers can receive full compensation for their job search and relocation expenses, equal to a maximum of \$1,500 for each benefit.
- Reinstates eligibility for public sector workers. In the event that public sector workers lose their jobs due to shifts in production overseas, the bill makes those workers eligible to apply for TAA benefits.